

Sent: Sunday, June 19, 2005 4:13 PM
To: Dabbs, Paul
Subject: Automated Waterplan Draft Specific Comment

Contact Information

Name: Mr. Dan Silver
Title: Executive Director
Organization: Endangered Habitats League

Comment subject matter:

Topic of Comment:
Public Draft

Description:

We support the Update's non-dam water management investments, including water use efficiency, recycling, and groundwater treatment to meet California's current and future water needs.

We oppose the Update's inclusion of CALFED and local surface storage projects, including the proposed raise of Shasta Dam, the Sites Offstream Storage Reservoir, enlargement of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir, and the proposed Temperance Flat Dam on the San Joaquin River. These projects will produce little water at a high public cost and harm the environment.

California doesn't need any new or raised dams. California has already increased water storage by 6 million acre feet in the last 15 years through groundwater programs and the construction of two offstream storage reservoirs (Diamond Valley and Los Vaqueros). More than 1,400 dams choke our rivers. Certainly, no more additional surface storage is needed.

We can more than meet our water needs without dams. A recent report published by the Planning and Conservation League (Investment Strategy for California Water) found that additional investments in ground water treatment and desalinization, water recycling, and urban and agricultural water use efficiency can increase the water available to Californians by nearly 4.7 million acre feet.

The Update should reduce stresses on declining Bay Delta Estuary ecosystem. Given the recent precipitous decline in Bay Delta fisheries and water quality, no Update scenario should assume an increase in Delta water exports.

All Californians deserve clean and affordable water. The Update should strengthen the recommendation to ensure that all Californians, including low income communities and communities of color, have access to clean, reliable and affordable water for drinking, recreation, and fish consumption.

The state should prepare for the impacts of global climate change on water supplies, water use, and land use by increasing the floodway capacity of our rivers, setting back levees, improving the operations of existing dams, and discouraging development in dangerous floodplains.
